



## Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 26

28 November 2017

Meeting Room 1.15, FRC contact and Education Centre, South Queensferry

### MINUTE

#### Attendees

Hugh Gillies (HG) (Chair)	Transport Scotland
Scott Lees (SL)	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Toby Millard (TM)	Transport Scotland
Craig Bowman (CB)	Network Rail
Campbell Docherty (CD)	BIG
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	Historic Environment Scotland
Rebecca Jones (RJ)	Historic Environment Scotland
Ken Gourlay (KG)	Fife Council
Gillian McCracken (GMC)	Fife Council
Manuela Calchini (MC)	Visit Scotland
Ewan Angus (EA)	Amey
Mark Arndt (MA)	Amey
Chris Waite (CW)	Amey
Gillian Laurie (GL)	Amey (Secretariat)

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed all attendees to Meeting 26 of the Forth Bridges Forum.

**Action – All Forum members not in attendance - Inform GL of your intentions to attend meetings, if not attending a substitute should be arranged.**

#### 2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies were received from: David Dickson - Network Rail, Ben Edwards - Network Rail; Eddie Lebida - Network Rail; Ewan Kennedy - CEC; Mirka Vybiralova - CEC; Alan Shirley - Transport Scotland; Lawrence Shackman – Transport Scotland; Mark Dunlop - Transport Scotland; Sandra Montador-Stewart - Fife Council; G Malcolm – West Lothian Council
- 2.2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 August 2017 were agreed and subsequently published.
- 2.3. Action points were reviewed and updated as follows:  
Action 21.2 – Open action

Action 22.4 – Ongoing  
Action 22.6 – Ongoing  
Action 23.3 – Ongoing  
Action 23.4 – Ongoing  
Action 23.5 – Ongoing  
Action 23.6 – Ongoing  
Action 24.4 – On hold  
Action 24.6 – Ongoing  
Action 25.1 – Ongoing  
Action 25.2 – Ongoing  
Action 25.3 – Ongoing  
Action 25.4 – Ongoing  
Action 25.5 - Closed

### **3. Tourism Project Group Update**

- 3.1. Tourism Strategy update provided by MC. Comments to version 13 have been requested by all forum members, some feedback has been received. All members discussed the draft strategy. EA confirmed Amey tourism plans for viewpoint and car park area will be presented to the Transport Minister on 10<sup>th</sup> January. HG asked that a separate tourism Strategy workshop is held early January. Post meeting note: Date for workshop is Tuesday 16 January 2018.
- 3.2. Deep Sea World will be raising proposals on their plans with Fiona Hyslop. HG will advise Adrian Duffy that the strategy is at draft status and a workshop is planned. Adrian Duffy hopes to use the 3D footage. This is to be discussed further.
- 3.3. Commercial Manager/Advisor will need to be considered to advise, oversee and deliver strategy actions.
- 3.4. Branding – MD gave a merchandising presentation with potential Forth Bridges products from Avian. MD has approached Business Gateway who have suggested any profit may go back into the local community. A Commercial Manager/Advisor would greatly assist with this.

**Action – All members read Strategy document**

**Action – Arrange Tourism Strategy workshop early January (ensure MC is informed of this date)**

### **4. World Heritage Management Group Update**

- 4.1. RJ advised that the World Heritage Coordinator post would be part time and could tie in with another role. HES is prepared to put funding towards the role. SL asked that this is taken forward, get the job description agreed and decide how this is paid for.

**Action – MD to arrange meeting asap with Transport Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and Visit Scotland to discuss.**

- 4.2. MO informed members that a Forth Bridges Collections Group has been formed. Next step is to design a simple inventory form and distribute.

- 4.3. 3D works are continuing to progress well with more advanced works being created. Appointment is being made for an education officer (on secondment) to assist directly. SL advised of two requests for the data. Bank of Scotland asked if the imagery could be used on new £20 polymer banknotes.
- 4.4. EA added that Amey have developed 3D virtual reality of the Forth Road Bridge to assist with bridge maintenance and inspection works and hope to develop this further.

## **5. Forth Bridges Forum Update**

- 5.1. Funding – The group discussed Forum funding contributions. HG asked for a review of funding from previous years. This is relevant to how the Forum is funded in the future, whether it remains in its current format or changes its remit, for example to incorporate a wider tourism interest.
- 5.2. Public meeting provisionally planned for 5<sup>th</sup> December to be postponed until January 2018. *Date to be confirmed.*

### **Action – Confirm date for public meeting and consider agenda**

- 5.3. Events Planner Update – Planner is being updated by GL and used by Forth Bridges Forum and subgroups. CD proposed each subgroup refer to this document at each meeting with an action to update. MO added that this document is useful to see what past events have taken place.

### **Action – All to consider events to be added to planner and email [FBF.Enquiries@amey.co.uk](mailto:FBF.Enquiries@amey.co.uk)**

## **6. Queensferry Crossing – Update by HG**

- 6.1. The mastic asphalt surface at the expansion joints needs to be addressed before the bridge can open to 70mph. Works will commence at 22:00 hours on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November until 6am Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Southbound traffic will use the FRB and Northbound traffic will use QC. Speed limit will be 40mph during these works. MA confirmed that Amey met with Stagecoach to discuss and advised KG to contact John Russell. KG asked for press release for this to distribute to Fife council members.

## **7. Communications Group**

- 7.1. CD advised the Engagement plan is currently on hold. HG asked that this is looked at following the Tourism meeting planned for early January 2018.
- 7.2. The quarterly website report presented to the Forum each quarter was discussed. There continues to be a gradual increase to the Forth Bridges Website (not the Forth Bridges Forum website). Over half of users visit the website through a mobile device. CW will look to add statistics from social media for future reports.

## **8. Network Rail – Update by CB**

- 8.1. Funding has been approved for planning process for Forth Bridge Experience. Pre-application work will be done in January 2018 with public engagement from February onwards. This should take three months, following this the application will be submitted. This is a ten month process, hopeful to have planning permission granted by end of 2018. This information could be shared at the next public meeting.
- 8.2. Network Rail now have a drone operator. An in-house opportunity which will provide huge benefits.

## **9. AOB**

- 9.1. MC confirmed she will be leaving Visit Scotland for a secondment to last 12 months. A replacement fill her current role within this group and forum subgroups. HG gave his thanks to MC for all her support with the Forum.
- 9.2. MO added that engineer Kaichi Watanabe, who returned to his home country after working on the Forth Bridge and in 1918 formed the Toyo Denki Seizo Company making electric motors for trams (with the help of Scottish engineer, Walter Rutherford). The company will celebrate its centenary in May/June 2018 and is keen to highlight its Scottish links. Mo added it would be good to have some communications to promote this.
- 9.3. MD confirmed that North Queensferry Football club now has the Forth Bridges logo on their training tops following sponsorship. This is part of a safety campaign to keep kids safe near railways.

- 10. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 10am – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.